



LOCAL RULES

Please note:

When walking to the first tee, the notice board on route to the tee is live with updated information. This will have the status of the course being open/closed, preferred lies and trolleys.

Out of Bounds

1. Beyond any fence or wall that bounds the estate (including the wall at the old castle on the 8th hole).
2. Beyond any white line stakes or white line bounding the course.

Obstructions

All fixed sprinkler heads, fixed ball washers and their foundations, fixed directional posts, drain covers, and distance markers are immovable obstructions. Relief must be taken under rule 24-2b, in addition, if such an obstruction on or within two club-lengths of the putting green of the hole being played intervenes with the line of play between the ball and the hole, the player may obtain relief without penalty, as follows: if the ball lies off the putting green but not in a hazard and is within two club lengths of the intervening obstruction, it may be lifted, cleaned and dropped at the nearest point to where the ball lay which is (a) not nearer the hole, (b) avoids such intervention and (c) is not in a hazard or on the putting green.

Safety Warnings

When leaving the 2nd green, be aware, as players from the 3rd tee may be teeing off from the right.

Road Crossing Warnings

Please take particular care when leaving the 4th, 5th and 7th greens as it is necessary to cross the driveway.

Roads, Paths, Bridges and Dry Stane Dykes

Artificially surfaced roads, paths and bridges are immovable obstructions. Relief from interference by them may be obtained under Rule 24-2b. Dry Stone Dykes are integral parts of the course. The ball must be played as it lies or declared unplayable under rule 28.

Ground Under Repair

All areas enclosed by a continuous white line marked GUR or defined on the club notice board as ground under repair from which relief MUST be taken. Rule 25-1 applies.

Water Hazards

Water hazards are defined by yellow stakes or lines; lateral water hazards are defined by red stakes or lines. Rule 26 applies.

Stones in Bunkers

Stones in bunkers are movable obstructions. Rule 24-1 applies.

Penalty for Breach of Local Rules

Stroke Play – Two shots; Matchplay – Loss of Hole

25-2 Embedded Ball (Fairways)

A ball embedded in its own pitch-mark in the ground in any closely mown area through the green may be lifted, cleaned and **dropped**, without penalty, as near as possible to the spot where it lay but not nearer the hole. The ball when dropped must first strike a part of the course through the green. "Closely-mown area" means any area of the course, including paths through the rough, cut to fairway height or less.

Rowallan Castle Local Rule

a. Lifting an Embedded Ball, Cleaning (Rough)

Temporary conditions that might interfere with proper playing of the game, including mud and extreme wetness, warranting relief for an embedded ball anywhere through the green. A ball embedded in its own pitch-mark through the green may be lifted, cleaned and **replaced**, without penalty, as near as possible to the spot where it lay but not nearer the hole.

25-1 Abnormal Ground Conditions

b. Relief

Except when the ball is in a water hazard or a lateral water hazard, a player may take relief from interference by an abnormal ground condition as follows:

(i) Through the Green: If the ball lies through the green, the player must lift the ball and drop it, without penalty, within one club-length of and not nearer the hole than the nearest point of relief. The nearest point of relief must not be in a hazard or on a putting green. When the ball is dropped within one club-length of the nearest point of relief, the ball must first strike a part of the course at a spot that avoids interference by the condition and is not in a hazard and not on a putting green.

Ball in Abnormal Ground Condition

c. Not Found

In order to apply this Rule, it must be known or virtually certain that the ball is in the abnormal ground condition. In the absence of such knowledge or certainty, the player must proceed under Rule 27-1.

If it is known or virtually certain that a ball that has not been found is in an abnormal ground condition, the player may take relief under this Rule. If he elects to do so, the spot where the ball last crossed the outermost limits of the abnormal ground condition must be determined and, for the purpose of applying this Rule, the ball is deemed to lie at this spot and the player must proceed as follows:

(i) Through the Green: If the ball last crossed the outermost limits of the abnormal ground condition at a spot through the green, the player may substitute another ball, without penalty, and take relief as prescribed in Rule 25-1b(i).

(ii) In a Bunker: If the ball last crossed the outermost limits of the abnormal ground condition at a spot in a bunker, the player may substitute another ball, without penalty, and take relief as prescribed in Rule 25-1b(ii).

(iii) In a Water Hazard (including a Lateral Water Hazard): If the ball last crossed the outermost limits of the abnormal ground condition at a spot in a water hazard, the player is not entitled to relief without penalty. The player must proceed under Rule 26-1.

1A-3 part C: Cleaning Ball

Conditions, such as extreme wetness causing significant amounts of mud to adhere to the ball, may be such that permission to lift, clean and **replace** the ball would be appropriate. In these circumstances, the following Local Rule is recommended:

On any closely-mown area throughout the course, a ball may be lifted and cleaned without penalty. The ball must be replaced.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE:

Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.

Stableford/Net Double Bogey Adjustment

“I had a very high score at a hole but still managed to get my handicap cut, how did that happen?”

The weekend has finally arrived and you are out playing in the weekly medal. On the 11th hole, danger strikes! After reloading from the tee, your second drive also sails out of bounds! It's all over. That's an automatic 0.1 increase to your handicap, right? You might as well go home and wait another week or so to redeem yourself.

Wrong... did you know that even though you failed to complete a hole, you will have been saved by the 'net double bogey adjustment', and with a solid finish to your round, you could not only make the buffer zone, but still have the potential to have your handicap cut?

How is this so?

Even though you didn't complete a hole, the highest possible score that will be recorded on a hole for handicap adjustment purposes is a 'net double bogey.'

If this happens, whilst you will be unable to win the prizes or the trophy on the day because you have not completed a hole(s), your round can still have a purpose and allow you to still return a score for handicap purposes.

In simple terms, what is a Stableford/Net Double Bogey adjustment?

- Its purpose is to place a limit on the maximum score that can be recorded at any hole to make handicaps more representative of a player's potential ability by reducing the impact of the occasional bad hole.
- It reduces a player's 'high' score on any hole to the equivalent of the lowest score that would achieve 0 points in a Stableford competition.
- All high scores within a round are reduced to a double bogey for the hole plus any handicap strokes that the player receives on that hole. *For Example: Par of the hole + 2 (double bogey) + handicap allowance on that hole in accordance with the Stroke Index.*

How does this work?

Example 1

A player with a handicap of 10, competing in a stroke-play competition, scores a 9 at the 7th hole, a par 4 with stroke index 11. They are 5-over par for that hole.

To mitigate against the high score on this hole affecting an otherwise fairly solid round, the score here is reduced to a double bogey 6 for handicapping purposes.

Example 2

A player with a handicap of 11 scored an 8 on the 11th hole, a par 4. They are 4-over par for that hole.

The hole has a stroke index of 1 (note the stroke index is less than the player's handicap, this means that they receive a stroke at this hole). Because they receive a stroke at this hole, their score is therefore reduced to net double bogey 7 for handicapping purposes ($4+2+1$).

What does this mean? If the player returned a net 72 in a strokeplay competition where the CSS was also 72, the result for handicapping purposes would be a net score of 71 and a handicap reduction of 0.2

Summary

- The adjustment places a limit (net double bogey) on the maximum score a player can return on any single hole.
- The adjustment is applied to scores on any holes that the player does not finish for any reason and holes in which a player records a score that is above the net double bogey value.